

## *The Expanding Primary Care Access and Workforce Act – Senator Bernie Sanders*

*This bill addresses the primary care challenges in America by supporting and expanding the primary care workforce and infrastructure, enhancing primary care payments, and improving the transparency and accountability of federal funds used to train health care providers.*

**Building the Primary Care Workforce:** *This bill expands primary care delivery sites, and supports training, scholarships, and loan repayment for primary care providers.*

- Reauthorizes and creates a mandatory appropriation for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) of \$4.9 billion through FY 2020; Requires that the Secretary provide at least six loan repayment and three scholarship awards to individuals in each State
- Creates a mandatory appropriation for Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) of \$25 billion for FY 2016 – FY 2020
- Reauthorizes and expands HRSA's Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program at a level of \$800 million through FY 2020
- Appropriates \$10 million for the National Health Care Workforce Commission
- Reauthorizes the Nurse Practitioner Residency Training Program through FY 2019
- Reauthorizes the Nurse Faculty Loan Program through FY 2019
- Reauthorizes the Primary Care Residency Expansion Program through FY 2019
- Reauthorizes the Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) through FY 2019

**Enhancing Primary Care Payment:** *This bill increases reimbursements for primary care providers and enhances the primary care expertise in determining physician fees.*

- Extends the 10 percent primary care incentive payment through FY 2020
- Permanently requires that Medicaid payment rates to primary care physicians equal 100 percent of the Medicare payment rate
- Requires that when determining physician fees for payments under Medicare, the Secretary shall not consult with an organization representing physicians unless at least half of the members of the advisory group are current primary care physicians

**Increasing Transparency and Accountability of Federal Funds:** *This bill enhances the transparency and accountability of Graduate Medical Education funds with a focus on directing federal dollars to meet the primary care needs across the United States.*

- Requires that federally funded medical schools maintain a family medicine or primary care department; requires that all 3<sup>rd</sup> year students complete an eight week primary care rotation
- Requires the creation of a mechanism to track the career paths of graduates of federally-funded medical schools and residency programs, and requires medical schools to report how their training programs develop the workforce to meet the need
- Raises the cap on the number of Medicare-supported residency training slots by 2,000, to be allotted to approved residency programs in family medicine
- Requires that hospitals receiving federal funds for residency programs offer a program in family medicine or adult or all-age primary care
- Requires hospitals receiving federal funds for residency programs to report information to increase the transparency and accountability of GME funds
- Requires that people without insurance cannot be charged more than Medicare rates for medical services